

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORT:**

This report pertains to an investigation of the identification of the burial location of a member of the Commonwealth Forces, during the Great War 1914-1921.

**SUBMITTED TO:**

CWGC Commemorations Section  
Commonwealth War Graves Commission  
2 Marlow Road  
Maidenhead, Berkshire  
SL6 7DX United Kingdom  
Email: [commemorations@cwgc.org](mailto:commemorations@cwgc.org)

**Report Date:** 19 March 2020

**Reason for Submission:** ("X" means purpose of the report)

<b>Casualty Identification:</b>		<b>Burial Information:</b>	
Confirmed Identity	X	Burial Location Identified	X
Most Probable Identity		Grave Stone Correction	X
Questionable Identity		Grave Records Correction	X
Incorrect Identity		Request for CWGC Details	
Other		Other	

**Supporting Documents:** (# refers to attachment number; "I" information provided)

<b>Casualty Identification:</b>		<b>Burial Information:</b>	
Wood, Harold John	i	Guards Cemetery Windy Corner, Cuinchy	<a href="#">link</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Liverpool Regiment	i	Pas de Calais, France	i
Serjeant #307372	i	Plot 7 Row H Grave 39	i
Death: 12 April 1918 (13 <sup>th</sup> )	<a href="#">link</a>	Date of Burial / Exhumation	i
Graves Registration Report	1	ICRC Record	6
Concentration of Grave	2	War Diary Extract(s)	7a-g
Exhumation Report	-	Grave Stone Photograph	-
Headstone Register	-	Grave Stone Inscription	-
Area Map(s)	3	Memorial Inscription/Photo	-
Trench Map(s)	4	Reporting and Review	8
Possible Candidates List	5	Other	-

**Summary of Findings:**

The Concentration of Graves form for Plot 7 Row H Grave 39, Guards Cemetery Windy Corner, Cuinchy, lists an Unknown British Soldier (Wood?), buried by Germans, marked with a cross dated 13 April 1918.

A review of the historical records reveals that [Serjeant Harold John Wood #307372](#) of the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> King's (Liverpool Regiment) died on that date, at a casualty station near that location (Richebourg), and was buried by the Germans. There are no other candidates that meet the requirements, thus there is no question as to his identity.

## Details of Findings:

The findings are based on the following:

1. The *Graves Registration Report* (GRRF) records only an “Unknown British Soldier” who died on 13 April 1918 (Attachment #1). With only that information it would not be possible to make a determination as to the identity of the soldier, as the [CWGC Records](#) reveal that 705 men were lost in France on that day, 33 of which are named on the Loos Memorial. For the two day period (12-13 April 1918) that number increases to 1,665 dead, of which 59 are remembered on the Loos Memorial.
2. The *Concentration of Graves Burial Return* (COG-BR) for the Unknown British Soldier in Grave 7.H.39 reveals five (5) key additional pieces of information that reveal the identity of the recovered remains (Attachment #2) :
  - i. The remains were recovered at TMC **36.S.14.b.3.1**
  - ii. The grave was marked with a cross.
  - iii. The cross was dated 13 April 1918.
  - iv. The soldier had a name that was read as “Wood?”.
  - v. The remains were buried by the Germans.

The Trench Map Coordinate (TMC) tells us that the remains were recovered from an area between Festubert in the south and Richbourg-St.Vaast in the north, approximately 3,500 yards southwest of Neuve Chapelle. This was an area of heavy fighting throughout the Great War, particularly in 1915 and again in 1918. The COG-BR tells us that these remains relate to action in April 1918, prior to April 13<sup>th</sup>, which was either the date of death or the burial date, or both. With that knowledge, we need only the search for the men killed in action in that area, around that time, most likely with the last name “Wood”, or some variation. The soldier was buried by the Germans.

3. An *Area Map* has been included to show the sector where the remains were recovered in **36.S.14.b** so that we can compare this to the location of specific regiments and/or battalions on or about 13 April 1918 (Attachment #3). The map has been marked with a **red square** to show the sub-sector where the remains were recovered along the Rue du Bois.
4. A *Trench Map* has been marked to indicate the location that the COG-BR indicated was the recovery location (Attachment #4). The **red crosshairs** mark the exact location identified as **36.S.14.b.3.1**. This appears to be on the edge of the Rue du Bois.
5. A *List of Candidates* for the remains was prepared using the database of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (Attachment #5). Although the details on the COG-BR were specific, we have expanded on these to include dates five (5) days prior to and after the reported date of death or burial.

There were a total of 649 deaths during that period within France for men having a last name that started with "W". Of these men, ninety (90) had some variation of a surname "Wood", which returned those name "Wood" ([CWGC database](#)). Thirteen (13) of these men had no known grave and were named on the Loos Memorial for the missing. That list includes an ALIAS name as well, reducing the candidates to twelve (12). On this list are twenty-seven (27) men with the name "Wood" of which four (4) have no known grave.

In addition to the men named above, a search was also made for any man with the last name "Wood", which had no known grave and was remembered on the Loos Memorial for any time in April 1918. That revealed one (1) additional man who we added to the four (4) from the first search, for this final list of five (5) candidates:

<b>WOOD, Harold John</b> Serjeant 307372	<b>12 April 1918</b> Age 26 LOOS MEMORIAL Panel 27 to 30.	<b>VIEW RECORD</b> <b>The King's (Liverpool Regiment)</b> United Kingdom
<b>WOOD, Harry</b> Private 27768	<b>11 April 1918</b> Age 33 LOOS MEMORIAL Panel 76.	<b>VIEW RECORD</b> <b>South Lancashire Regiment</b> United Kingdom
<b>WOOD, Reginald John</b> Private 40691	<b>22 April 1918</b> Age 18 LOOS MEMORIAL Panel 38 and 39.	<b>VIEW RECORD</b> <b>Somerset Light Infantry</b> United Kingdom
<b>WOOD, William Lees</b> Private 20121	<b>18 April 1918</b> LOOS MEMORIAL Panel 68.	<b>VIEW RECORD</b> <b>Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)</b> United Kingdom
<b>WOOD, William Napier</b> Private S/24938	<b>09 April 1918</b> Age 19 LOOS MEMORIAL Panel 112 to 115.	<b>VIEW RECORD</b> <b>Seaforth Highlanders</b> United Kingdom

The information provided on the COG-BR would suggest that there were only three (3) candidates, if the burial date was on or before 13 April 1918. Those men were Harold John Wood, Harry Wood and William Napier Wood. Regardless, we continued the case research with all five (5) candidates.

6. The *ICRC POW Records* were researched for all five (5) of the candidates listed above (Attachment #6). Although the database states that it is "Prisoners of

War”, the database also has files for any man where an inquiry was made, as well as those that were on German Burial Lists.

Only two (2) of the men had records of any kind in the ICRC Archives:

- Harold John Wood #307372 (Attachment #6a)
- William Napier Wood #S/24938 (Attachment #6b)

Private William Napier Wood of the Seaforth Highlanders had a basic ICRC record that related to an inquiry as to his whereabouts. He was reported as missing sometime between the 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1918. The response was “Negatif envoye” (negative sent) dated 16 August 1918.

Serjeant Harold John Wood of the King’s (Liverpool Regiment) also had an ICRC record; however his had a positive response. His record also contained additional PA Files that provided details of the inquiries as to his whereabouts. The file noted that he was in the 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon of “A” Coy. We know from his records that he was in the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, The King’s (Liverpool Regiment). His [record](#) dated 20 August 1918 states that he died of wounds on 13 April 1918 (note the CWGC reports 12 April 1918) at a Casualty Clearing Station at Richebourg. The record shows that his name appears on a German Burial List of 1 August 1918. This list does not indicate that he was a Prisoner of War, only that he was buried by the Germans.

As a result of this information, we now have a confirmed identity of the man with the name “WOOD” that was buried by the Germans near Richebourg **36.S** after his death on 13 April 1918. The results are an exact match for all five (5) items marked on the COG-BR that was presented in Item #2 above.

7. The *War Diary* records were researched for all five (5) men that were on the candidates list, even though we had knowledge that Serjeant Harold John Wood was the only man that met all the requirements. Such an analysis can provide confirmation that the results and conclusions were correct and verifiable (Attachment #7).

The war diary search revealed that three (3) of the men were in the area defined by the McMaster trench map **[Aire] 36a** and only two (2) were in the area defined as **[Lille] 36**. That provides a secondary exclusion list:

Excluded as in Aire **36a**:

William Napier Wood

- la Miquellerie 36a.O.30 (war diary [page 459 of 657](#))
- 18,000 yards west of remains

William Lees Wood

- Bois Moyen 36a.J.34 (war diary [page 496 of 584](#))
- 15,000 yards west of remains

Reginald John Wood

- Pont l’Hinges 36a.W.4 (war diary [page 506 of 712](#))
- The closest but still 8,000 yards west of remains

Included as in Lille 36:

Harry Wood  
Harold John Wood

The Divisional War Diary ([55<sup>th</sup> West Lancashire Division](#)) provides a detailed narrative of the events of April 9<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> 1918, thus encompassing both the actions of Serjeant Harold John Wood #307372 of the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> The King's (Liverpool Regiment) and Private Harry Wood #27768 of the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> South Lancashire Regiment (war diary [page 216 of 879](#)). Private Wood has to be given serious consideration as his regiment was in the same division as Serjeant Wood, having joined as the Divisional Pioneer Battalion in January 1916. As a Pioneer Battalion, the unit was not part of an active infantry brigade but served with the Divisional Troops. However, in times of need, everyone took part, as was the case here.

At some point on 9 April 1918 the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> (Pioneer) Battalion of the South Lancashire Regiment was placed under the command of the 166<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade, in reserve in the Locon **36a.X.7** area (Attachment #7a – war diary [page 218 of 879](#)). The following day, 10 April 1918, the enemy made a very heavy attack at 7:40 am and lighter attacks on Cailloux and Festubert. On the afternoon of 11 April 1918 the enemy attacked again, resulting in the capture of both Festubert East Keep and Cailloux Keep (war diary [page 220 of 879](#)). There was an immediate local counter attack and the line was restored. It was during this period that Private Harry Wood of the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the South Lancashire Regiment was killed.

In addition to the recorded history of the Divisional units recorded in the text of the war diary, there was a great amount of detail provided in the positional maps for the period. Combining the information for each of Private Harry Wood and Serjeant Harold Wood is best illustrated with the information shown on the position maps for the 55<sup>th</sup> Division.

The first map, that follows the narrative, depicts the position of the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> South Lancashire Regiment just south of Locon and the 166<sup>th</sup> Brigade HQ on 9 April 1918 (Attachment #7b - war diary [page 221 of 879](#)). That same map also shows where Serjeant Wood was with the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion the King's (Liverpool Regiment), which served in the 165<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the same division. They were approximately 8,000 yards further east-southeast of Locon and northeast of Festubert.

The CWGC reports the date of death of Serjeant Harold John Wood as 12 April 1918, however we know from the ICRC report of the German information that he died of wounds on 13 April 1918. The war diary of the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, King's (Liverpool Regiment) confirms the location of the unit. In early April the battalion was in Brigade Reserve at Gorre **36b.F.3.b** (Attachment #7c – war diary [page 328 of 615](#)). They moved up to the Festubert sector on the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month, where they were providing working parties for at Cailloux Keep (near Brewery Corner **36.S.25.b.8.7**). On 9 April 1918 the Germans bombed their line heavily and attacked early in the evening, resulting in two companies missing and a platoon of "A" Coy. The bombardment and attack was repeated on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, until relieved at 7am on the 12<sup>th</sup> (Attachment #7d – war diary [page 329 of 615](#)). It would have to be during this period that Serjeant Wood was wounded, disappeared and was taken by the Germans.

The second map shows the positions held by the 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> South Lancashire Regiment (**36a.X.9**) in the front of the 1st Battalion Portuguese (Attachment #7e - war diary [page 222 of 879](#)). The third map of 10 April 1918 shows the 1/4th South Lancashire Regiment at **36.X.9** to the southwest of Lacouture and Richebourg (Attachment #7f - war diary [page 236 of 879](#)). That places them 4,500 yards northwest of where the remains were recovered. The 1<sup>st</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> South Lancashire Regiment did not move from this area, as shown on the map for midnight of the 11th/12th April 1918 (Attachment #7g - war diary [page 232 of 879](#)). At the same time, Sergeant Wood of the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> K.L.R. is 4,000 yards east-southeast in sector **36.S.20**, in close proximity to where the remains were recovered.

### Action Required:

The “Investigative Report” has been prepared in accordance with the procedures and criteria set out by the CWGC, should they wish to make any changes to the commemoration details (Attachment #8).

In this particular case there were five (5) clearly defined requirements of the “Concentration of Graves Burial Return” that could be investigated to determine the identity of the Unknown British Soldier. Serjeant Harold John Wood #307372, of the 1<sup>st</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> King’s (Liverpool Regiment) met all five (5) of the requirements. No other missing soldier met any more than one (1) of the requirements – that being a name of the form “Wood”.

These were the five (5) requirements that were met by the Serjeant:

- i. The remains were recovered at TMC **36.S.14.b.3.1**
- ii. The grave was marked with a cross.
- iii. The cross was dated 13 April 1918.
- iv. The soldier had a name that was read as “Wood?”.
- v. The remains were buried by the Germans.

Initially there was a question as to whether the date on the cross was the date of death or the date of burial, as the CWGC records Serjeant Woods date of death as 12 April 1918. The ICRC records of the German burials stated that Serjeant Wood died of wounds on 13 April 1918. The CWGC date may be a transcription error.

The investigation has provided conclusive results that this is the grave of Serjeant Harold John Wood. There are no other candidates that meet the requirements, thus there is no question as to his identity.



# ATTACHMENT #1

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Graves Registration Report Form.

<https://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2007362.JPG>

M.M. COMPREHENSIVE REPORT. Army Form 27/10-80.

GRAVES REGISTRATION REPORT FORM.

No. 1. District. REPORT No. 17 SCHEDULE No. 150.c.

CUNCHY

PLACE OF BURIAL GUARDS CEMETERY (WINDY CORNER.)

Map Reference 44a.A.8.c.4.5.

The following are buried here:— PLOT 7. ROW "H". Major D.A.D.G.R. & E. "A".

Regiment	No.	Name	Rank and Initials	Date of Death	Cross Erected or G. R. U'd.	Plot, Row and Grave
K. R. R. C.	3501.	DAY.	PTE.	9-5-15	All	38.
	UNKNOWN	BRITISH	SOLDIER.	13-4-18	Crosses	39.
	"	"	"		Erected.	40.
	"	"	"			41.
	"	"	"			42.
	"	"	"			43.
	"	"	"			44.
Cameron Hldr.	"	"	"			45.
ROW "J".						-----
	UNKNOWN	BRITISH	SOLDIER.			1.
	"	"	"			2.
	"	"	"			3.
	"	"	"			4.
	"	"	"			5.
	"	"	"			6.
	"	"	"			7.
	"	"	"			8.

(6 31 5) W3160—P2723 100,000 9/19 HWV P1024 Forms/W3372/3

ENTERED 22 1/4 a.c. 10-2-21

SLIPS CHECKED



# ATTACHMENT #2

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Concentration of Graves (Exhumations and Reburials) Burial Return. <https://archive.cloud.cwgc.org/archive/doc/doc2007608.JPG>

**CONCENTRATION OF GRAVES (Exhumation and Reburials).**  
**BURIAL RETURN.**

Name of Cemetery of Reburial *Guards (Windy Corner) Cemetery* *7.153* *Braymsham*

Plot	Row	Grave	Map Reference where body found	Was cross on grave?	Regimental particulars	Means of Identification	Were any effects forwarded to Base?
7	H	32	S 15 a. 1-9	NO	1 m. Brown Bth Soldier	Clothing	nil
7	H	33	S 15 d. 3-2	NO	DO	NO	nil
7	H	34	S 15 b. 4-7	NO	DO	NO	nil
7	H	35	S 15 b. 3-1	NO	DO	NO	nil
7	H	36	S 16 a. 2-2	YES	Plc W Ricor 7 m King's Lanc Rgt	Cross	nil
7	H	37	S 8 b. 4-3	YES	K 1 A 10.5.15 1575 Pte <del>King</del> 3 m Royal Sussex Rgt	Cross	nil
7	H	38	S 8 b. 4-3	YES	K 1 A 9.5.15 3501 Pte Day, KRR Co	Cross	nil
7	H	39	S 14 b. 3-1	YES	K 1 A 9.5.15 1 m. Buffon Bth Soldier (Wood)? Buried by Germans	Cross	nil
Memorial Plot			S 16 a. 2-4	YES	1 m. Buffon Bth Soldier 13.4.18	Cross only no body found	nil
			DO	YES	16047 Pte Rumble, 9 Lt 10 m Royal Buffs Rgt K 1 A 14.5.15	Cross only no body found	nil

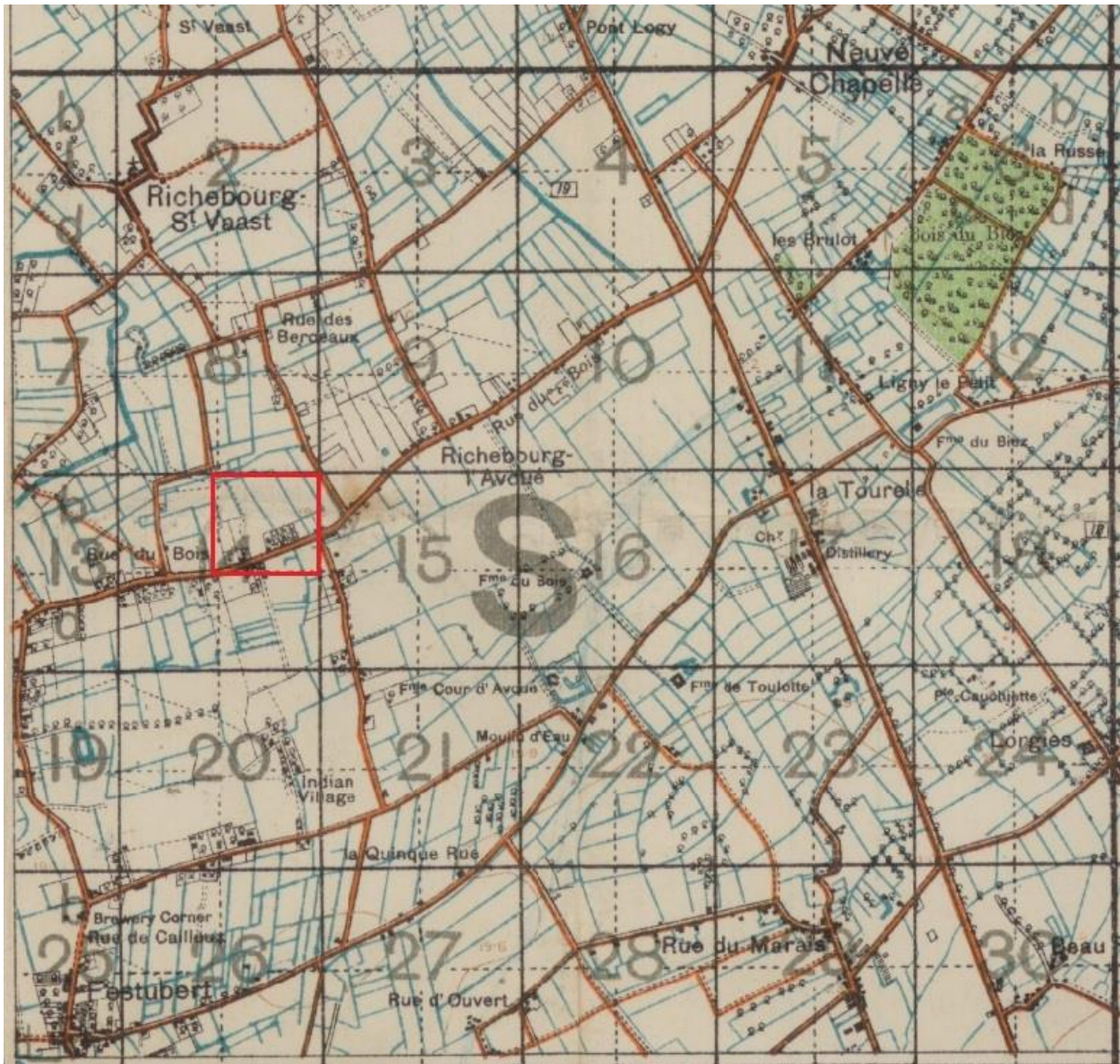
This form to be made out in triplicate, two copies being handed to the D.A.D. (C. of G.) and the other retained by the Burial Officer.  
H.B. [Signature]

B154. W.L. 1116 SEP 1914. 150,000/50. 5/18. R.O.P. 5/18.



## **ATTACHMENT #3**

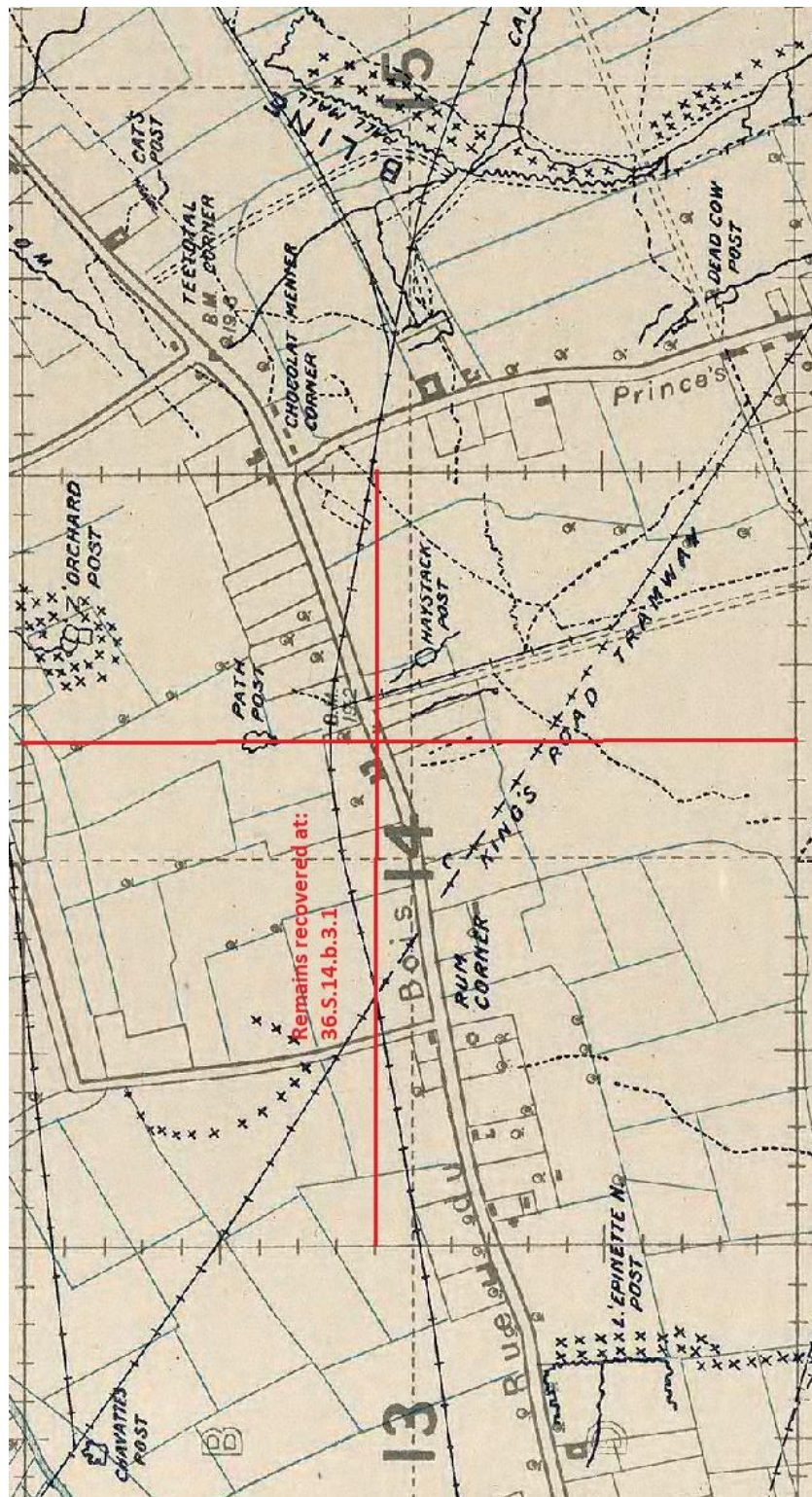
Lloyd Reeds Map Collection of McMaster University, Hamilton Ontario Canada. Lille Map 298WW1MAP.  
<http://digitalarchive.mcmaster.ca/islandora/object/macrepo%3A4287/-/collection>





## ATTACHMENT #4

The National Archives British Trench Map Atlas.36SW3 Richebourg Edition 11A Map wo297\_0975  
Trenches Corrected 02/07/1918. Naval and Military Press, Uckfield, West Sussex, United Kingdom.



# ATTACHMENT #5

Commonwealth War Graves Commission. *Casualty Record: Commonwealth Forces.*

<https://www.cwgc.org/find/find-war-dead>

## Search Results

surname	forename	death	rank	regiment	unit	#
BLACKWOOD	JAMES ROBB	9/4/1918	Private	Seaforth Highlanders	"D" Coy. 6th Bn.	'S/24580'
ELLWOOD	WILLIAM	9/4/1918	Rifleman	The King's (Liverpool Regiment)	1st/5th Bn.	'87861'
HEYWOOD	WILLIAM EDWARD	9/4/1918	Private	Lancashire Fusiliers	2nd/5th Bn.	'202861'
ISHERWOOD	NATHAN	9/4/1918	Private	South Lancashire Regiment	1st/4th Bn.	'201078'
KIRKWOOD	SAMUEL	13/04/1918	Private	The King's (Liverpool Regiment)	1st/10th Bn.	'356941'
WOOD	HAROLD JOHN	12/4/1918	Serjeant	The King's (Liverpool Regiment)	1st/5th Bn.	'307372'
WOOD	HARRY	11/4/1918	Private	South Lancashire Regiment	1st/4th Bn.	'27768'
WOOD	WILLIAM LEES	18/04/1918	Private	Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment)	2nd Bn.	'20121'
WOOD	WILLIAM NAPIER	9/4/1918	Private	Seaforth Highlanders	6th Bn.	'S/24938'
WOODMAN	JAMES EMANUEL	9/4/1918	Rifleman	The King's (Liverpool Regiment)	1st/5th Bn.	'94382'
WOODROW	LANCELOT SYDNEY	11/4/1918	Private	Northumberland Fusiliers	1st Bn.	'202136'
WOODROW	BERTIE REGINALD	11/4/1918	Private	ALIAS real first name is man above		'202136'
WOODRUFF	GEORGE	9/4/1918	Private	The King's (Liverpool Regiment)	1st/7th Bn.	'94155'

## **ATTACHMENT #6a**

International Committee of the Red Cross. ICRC Historical Archives – Prisoners of the First World War

Form V 30

Zentral-Heimdienst-Liste 1915

P.A. 34005  
P.A.

6074

- 12 -

Regimenter,  
1. B. 12

Potenzialisten.  
=====

Alter: 24534/4

Good,

Harold, J. Herz. 1/4. Irish K. & L. boy  
4. Eaton, J. H. J. France.  
Verst. 11.4.18 auf d. Verurteilungsmord  
Bauern in O. B. O. U. R. S.  
Infolge Verurteilung.

Katze,

Verst. Gen. H. R. H. D. West.  
Verst. Gen. H. R. H. D. West.  
Verst. Gen. H. R. H. D. West.  
Verst. Gen. H. R. H. D. West.  
Verst. Gen. H. R. H. D. West.

Wood,

Verst. Pte. Verst. Pte. Verst. Pte.  
Verst. Pte. Verst. Pte. Verst. Pte.  
Verst. Pte. Verst. Pte. Verst. Pte.  
Verst. Pte. Verst. Pte. Verst. Pte.  
Verst. Pte. Verst. Pte. Verst. Pte.

Hatkin,

Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.

Hacker,

Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.

Welpox,

Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.

Wilkinson,

Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.

Wright,

Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.

Wikefurd,

Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.

Watt,

Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.

Watt,

Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.  
Verst. Gen. King's Grenadier L. J.

WOOD Harold John  
Sgt. 307372. K. Liverpool  
Rgt. "A" Coy. 4th Platoon.  
Rep: Mrs M. Kennedy, 105  
Warrender Park Road,  
Edinburgh, Scotland.  
*P. A. 24005-20. 8. 18 Ford Ward.  
4. Sgt-18 Irish. R. L. R. 4th Plat-  
3. B. 1st F. France. Died 13. 4. 18.  
at Casualty Station. Wounded from  
wounds. Communicated to the  
18. 11. 18*



## ATTACHMENT #6b

International Committee of the Red Cross. ICRC Historical Archives – Prisoners of the First World War

W O O  
A.37666

WOOD Wm N

Pte 24938 "D" Coy, Seaforth  
Highlds. Missing 9/12.4.18  
France.

Rep: Mr Wm N.Wood (fath)  
Ballinbreich.Avonbridge  
Stirlingshire.

-----  
*Négatif envoyé  
16.8.18.*

## ATTACHMENT #7a

UK, WWI War Diaries (France, Belgium and Germany), 1914-1920 Divisional Headquarters 55th Division  
Piece 2905/1: Headquarters Branches and Services: General Staff (1918 Jan - Apr)

- 2 -

the ground occupied together with a large number of prisoners and machine guns. By the early afternoon the situation on the front of this Brigade was completely restored and the Brigade held its original line with the exception of a few of the forward posts and saps. These were re-occupied about dusk without great opposition, and at the end of the day this Brigade held every inch of its original ground.

On the Left Brigade Front the VILLAGE LINE along the PONT FIKE - FESTUBERT Road, the Main Line of Resistance, was attacked by 9.50 a.m. although parts of the OLD BRITISH LINE and other posts in front of it continued to hold out for a considerable period after this. Owing to the determined fighting of the garrisons of these advanced posts the attack was considerably broken up and disorganised, and only succeeded in penetrating the main defences on the extreme right of the Brigade. In this neighbourhood the enemy occupied WINDY CORNER and attacked LE PLANTIN SOUTH from the right and rear. The latter was also occupied but a determined local attack soon completely restored the situation and captured <sup>numerous</sup> prisoners and machine guns.

Although the attack was pushed with great determination, at no other point was the line penetrated.

On the extreme left flank of the Brigade, the situation was rendered extremely difficult by the retirement about 8 a.m. of the whole of the neighbouring troops, so that this flank was left entirely in the air and exposed to attack from North and West. One of the posts in rear of this flank - "ROUTE A KEEP" - was consequently captured at 11 a.m. from the rear by enemy who had approached it under cover of the fog.

As soon as the threat to the left flank was known a defensive flank was thrown back by support troops of the left Brigade from CAILLOUX KEEP through the Northern extremity of the TUNING FORK Locality to LOISNE CENTRAL KEEP. This was continued Westwards by 166th Infantry Brigade (less 2 Battalions placed at the disposal of 164th and 165th Brigades) under whose command were also placed later the 1/4th S. Lances Regt., (Pioneers) three Field Companies, R.E., a detachment of 251st Tunnelling Coy., and some details who had been moved to a position about MESPLAUX FARM, and prolonged the flank, though not without intervals, to the LAWE CANAL, East of LOCON.

At 11.45 a.m. certain batteries which were in exposed positions were ordered to move to retired positions, a section at a time. This move was completed during the day.

About 12.30 p.m. an attack developed against LOISNE CENTRAL and LE TOURET CENTRAL. This attack was repulsed, but the situation in LE TOURET CENTRAL was precarious as the enemy were in possession of the village on its immediate North.

At 12.45 p.m. owing <sup>to</sup> the retirement of the XI Corps Heavy Artillery the 42nd Heavy Artillery Brigade came under the direct orders of 55th Division.

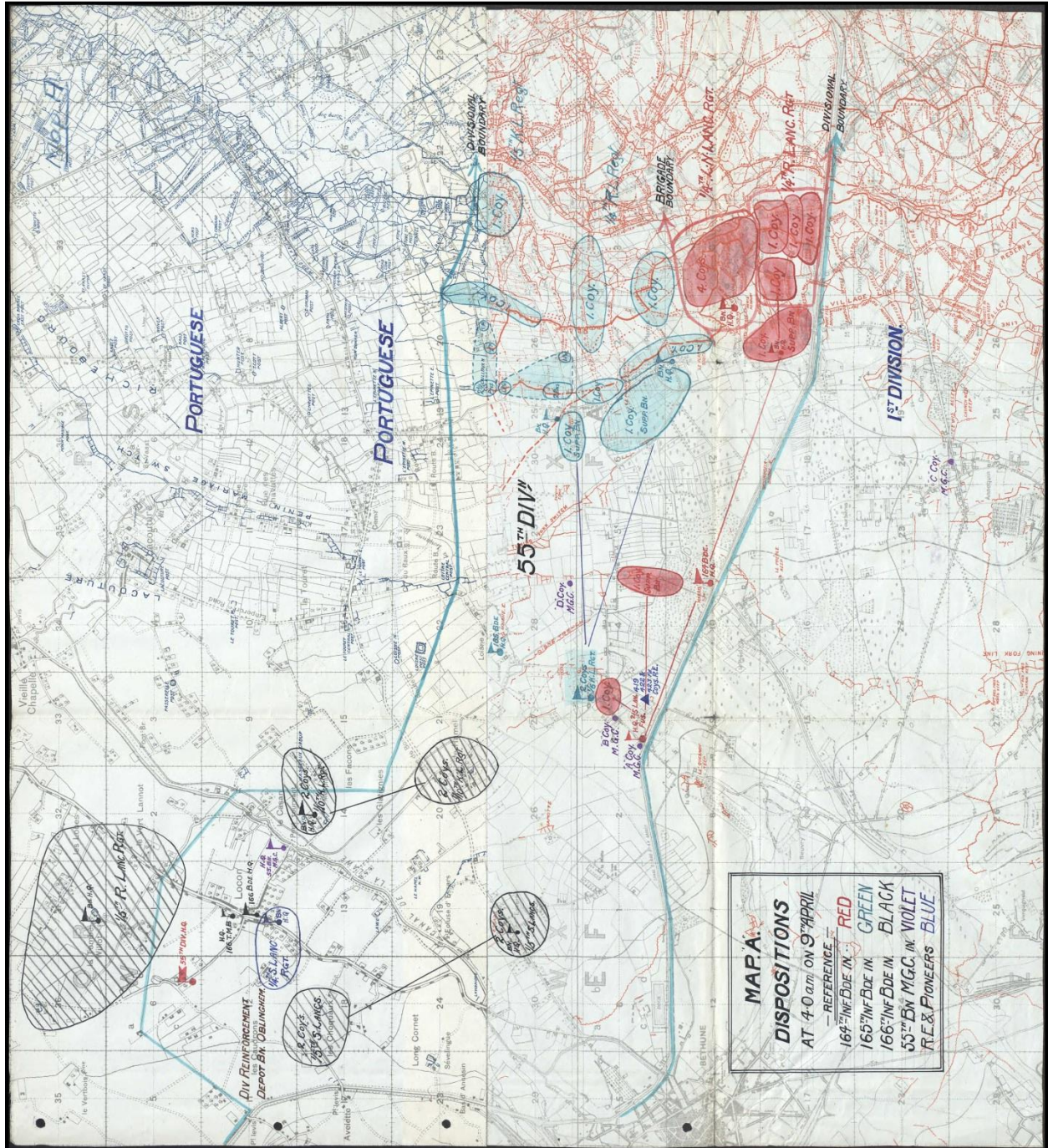
The 154th Infantry Brigade (51st Division) arrived West of LOCON early in the afternoon and came under the orders of 55th Division. One Battalion - the 1/4th Seaforth Hrs. - was at once placed at the disposal of the Brigadier General Commanding 166th Infantry Brigade and used to strengthen the defensive flank. The remainder of the Brigade was used to cover LOCON and Divisional Headquarters at LES CAUDRONS, from the North.

The enemy made several attempts during the afternoon and evening to penetrate this flank and at one time succeeded in gaining a footing in LOISNE CENTRAL but was ejected. Heavy fighting took place also near MESPLAUX FARM but the line remained intact. At 4.30 p.m. Divisional Headquarters which was by this time within rifle shot of front line moved in accordance with



## ATTACHMENT #7b

[UK, WWI War Diaries \(France, Belgium and Germany\), 1914-1920 Divisional Headquarters 55th Division Piece 2905/1: Headquarters Branches and Services: General Staff \(1918 Jan - Apr\)](#)





[UK, WWI War Diaries \(France, Belgium and Germany\), 1914-1920](#)  
[King's \(Liverpool\) Regiment 55th Division Piece 2926: 165 Infantry Brigade \(1916 - 1919\)](#)

Guards Cemetery Windy Corner 7.H.39



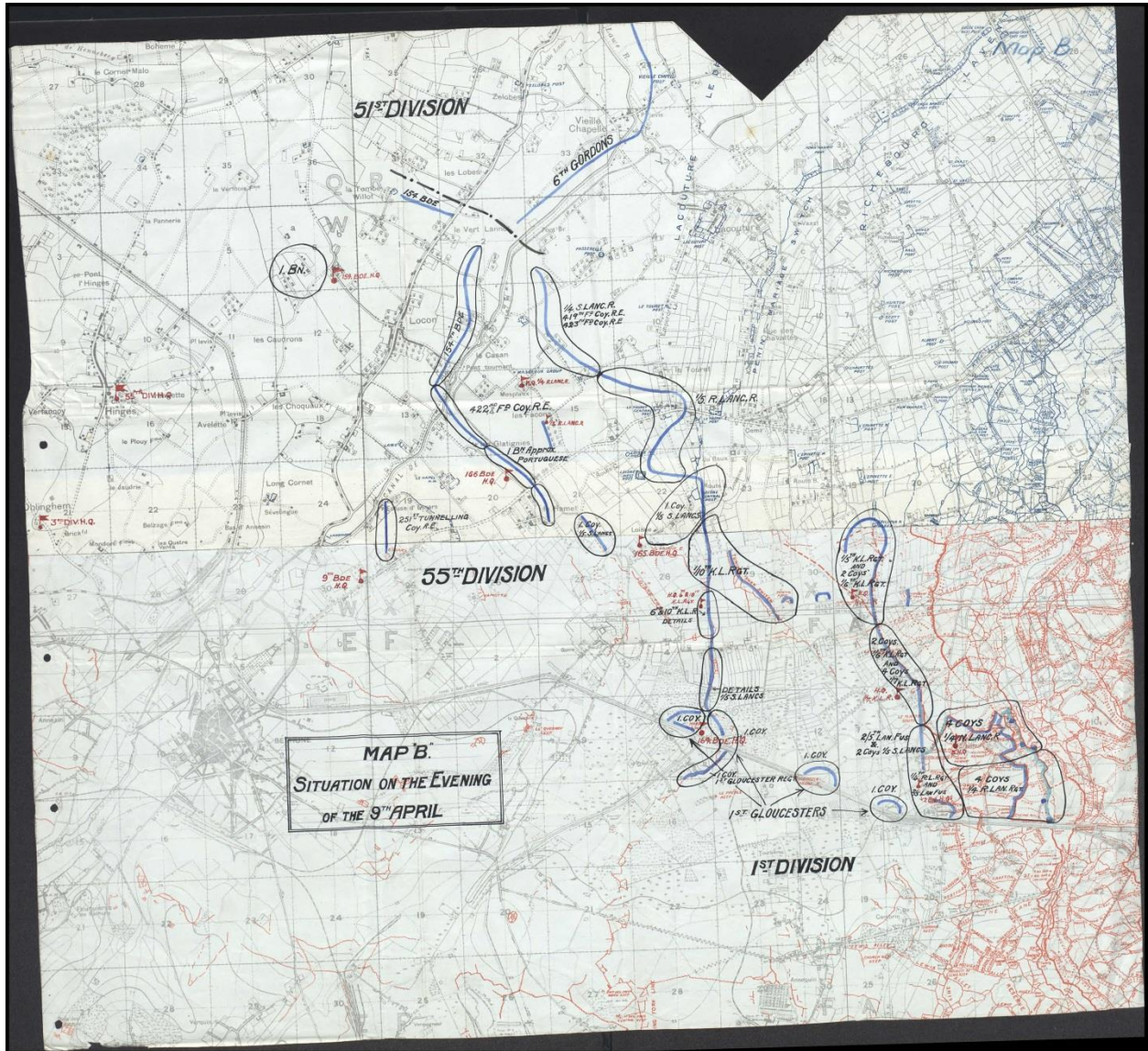
[UK, WWI War Diaries \(France, Belgium and Germany\), 1914-1920](#)  
[King's \(Liverpool\) Regiment 55th Division Piece 2926: 165 Infantry Brigade \(1916 - 1919\)](#)

Place	Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information	Remarks and references to Appendices
FESTUBERT	14/4/18		Heavy shelling during the morning. Garrison driven out by very heavy bombardment from FESTUBERT EAST. A party under Major West reoccupied the post. The Garrison of CAMBLON X KEEP at 1.30 was driven out by the enemy, but a counter-attack retook the position. A company of 13 KAR reinforced the post and took over defence of left flank. At 1.45 the enemy had taken the post. The Garrison, relieved at 1.45, was driven out by the enemy. The Garrison, relieved at 1.45, was driven out by the enemy. The Garrison, relieved at 1.45, was driven out by the enemy.	
GORRE	14/4/18		Company occupied trenches dug from GORRE to LE HAMEL. Heavy shelling during the morning. Garrison driven out by very heavy bombardment from FESTUBERT EAST. A party under Major West reoccupied the post. The Garrison of CAMBLON X KEEP at 1.30 was driven out by the enemy, but a counter-attack retook the position. A company of 13 KAR reinforced the post and took over defence of left flank. At 1.45 the enemy had taken the post. The Garrison, relieved at 1.45, was driven out by the enemy. The Garrison, relieved at 1.45, was driven out by the enemy. The Garrison, relieved at 1.45, was driven out by the enemy.	
CAMBLAIN CHATELAIN	14/4/18		Heavy shelling during the morning. Garrison driven out by very heavy bombardment from FESTUBERT EAST. A party under Major West reoccupied the post. The Garrison of CAMBLON X KEEP at 1.30 was driven out by the enemy, but a counter-attack retook the position. A company of 13 KAR reinforced the post and took over defence of left flank. At 1.45 the enemy had taken the post. The Garrison, relieved at 1.45, was driven out by the enemy. The Garrison, relieved at 1.45, was driven out by the enemy. The Garrison, relieved at 1.45, was driven out by the enemy.	



## **ATTACHMENT #7e**

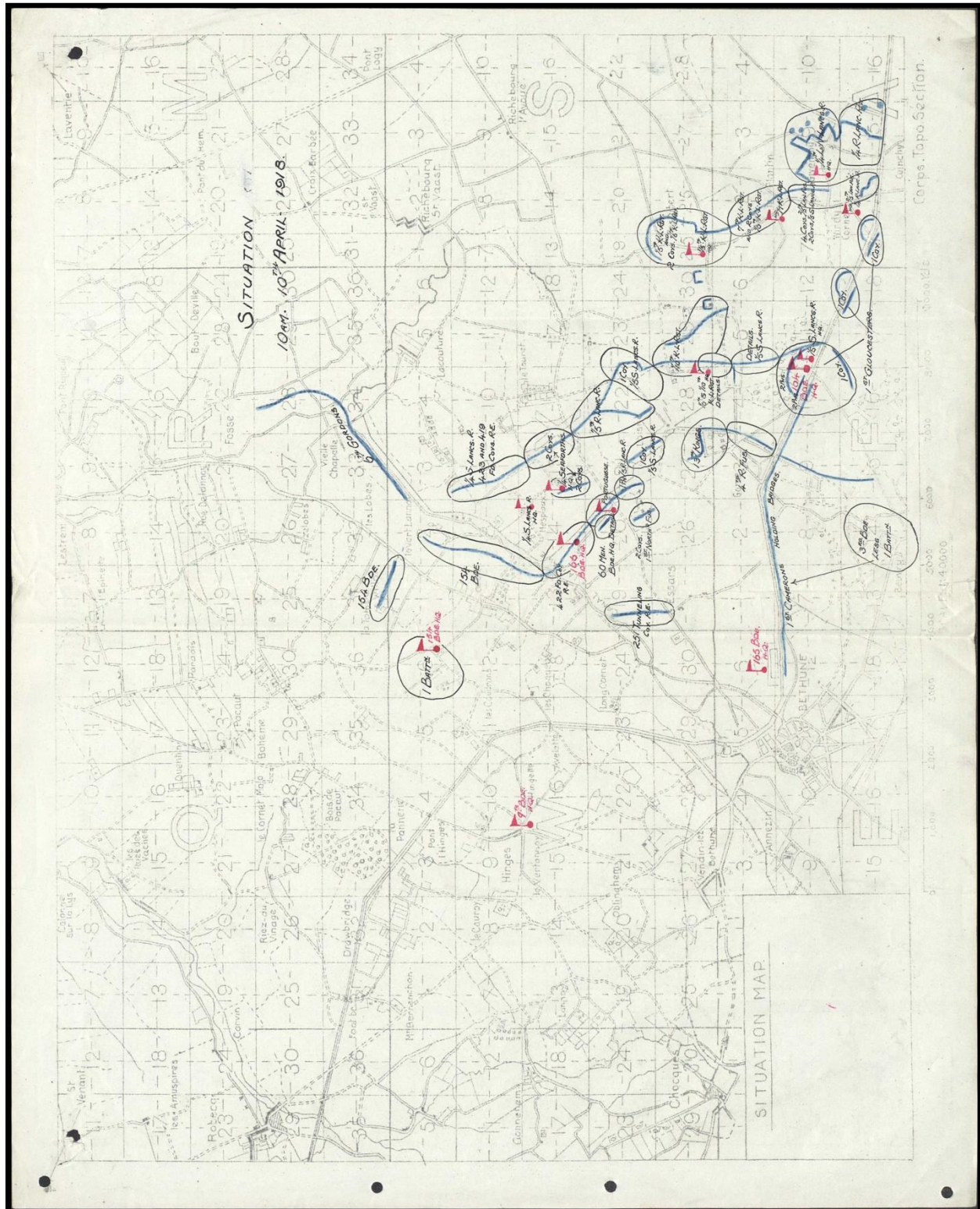
[UK, WWI War Diaries \(France, Belgium and Germany\), 1914-1920 Divisional Headquarters 55th Division Piece 2905/1: Headquarters Branches and Services: General Staff \(1918 Jan - Apr\)](#)





# ATTACHMENT #7f

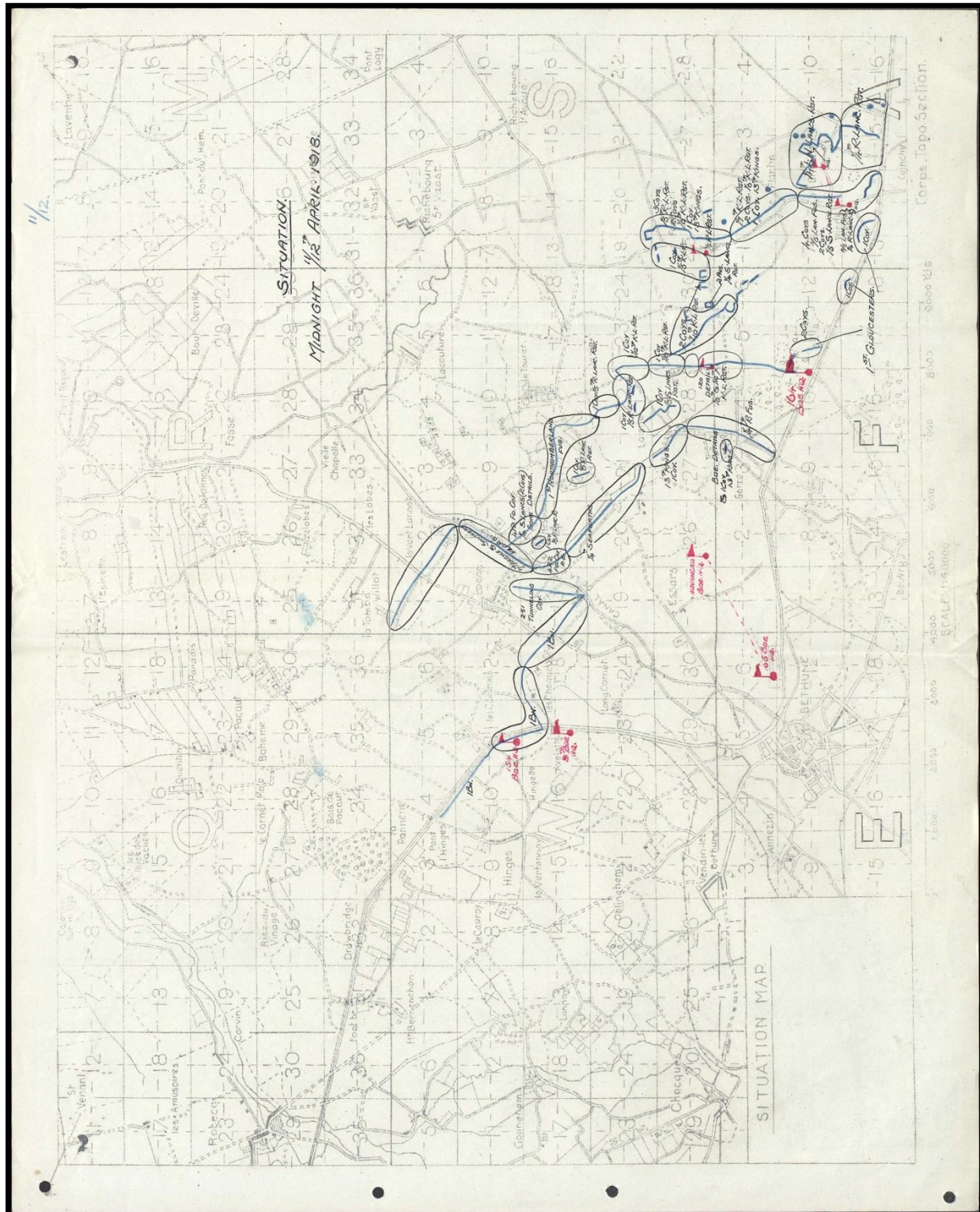
[UK, WWI War Diaries \(France, Belgium and Germany\), 1914-1920 Divisional Headquarters 55th Division Piece 2905/1: Headquarters Branches and Services: General Staff \(1918 Jan - Apr\)](#)





# ATTACHMENT #7g

[UK, WWI War Diaries \(France, Belgium and Germany\), 1914-1920 Divisional Headquarters 55th Division](#)  
[Piece 2905/1: Headquarters Branches and Services: General Staff \(1918 Jan - Apr\)](#)





## **ATTACHMENT #8**

This “*Reporting and Review*” attachment is provided to assist all parties in the submission of an investigative report related to the identification of the burial location, or headstone markings, of a member of the Commonwealth Forces during the Great War 1914-1921. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) receives a copy of this report in the event they wish to make changes to the commemoration details. In order to alter the records, the CWGC has set out their criteria for the procedure and submission of cases for review, as detailed below. The CWGC is under no obligation to make changes based on a report.

We have modified the requirement information noted below to include CWGC criteria from their source material:

<b>Guideline Criteria for Submission:</b>	<b>Evidence and Source Material:</b>
Cases need to present clear and convincing evidence to prove the identity of a casualty and must not be based on assumption or speculation. The Commission's Commemoration Team will also consider whether the findings of a better informed contemporary investigation are being revisited and if there is any new evidence to consider. By way of example, it is unlikely that the Commission would support a revision of the arrangements for the commemoration where it is apparent that no new evidence is being presented and, a better informed previous decision is being revisited some 100 years later.	Un-cited resources cannot be accepted as official evidence. Research conducted on the internet will only be accepted if supplied by a recognised authority such as the CWGC, National Archives etc. Any primary (contemporary) sources <i>e.g. the National Archives, CWGC, and Genealogical website original documentation etc.</i> must be copied and submitted with the case. The relevant pages of any secondary material <i>e.g. published reference books and articles; website material etc.</i> should also be copied and submitted. All sources must be correctly referenced as footnotes throughout the submission as well as cited in a complete bibliography of consulted sources. Referencing is essential to any historical research and should contain some uniform elements.

The following have participated in the preparation, review and submission of this report on a voluntary basis. Those noted below have read the investigative report and compared it to the criteria set out by the CWGC, as a guiding principle, and have agreed to have their name included as part of the review team. The CWGC may contact any of the reviewers at the e-mail address provided below.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>E-mail</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
Richard Laughton Canada	Private Researcher LMC Great War Research Company	<a href="mailto:rlaughton@laughton.ca">rlaughton@laughton.ca</a>	Investigator & Report Author